Literacy Survey

2151. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a National Action Plan for conducting literacy survey, for eradication of illiteracy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The goal of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) is to attain full literacy *i.e.* a sustainable threshold level of 75% by the year 2005. The NLM seeks to achieve this goal through the schemes of Literacy Compaigns and Operation Restoration as well as Continuing Education progamme.

Literacy Surveys for identification of the number of non-literates already form part of the initial project activities under the Scheme of Literacy Campaigns and Operation Restoration. No separate National Action Plan for conducting a literacy survey is under consideration.

A comprehensive national survey on the status of literacy has been carried out as part of the Census 2001. The Census 2001 (Provisional) Report indicates that the literacy rate in the country has increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 65.38% in 2001. This is the highest decadal growth rate since independence. For the first time there is a decline in the absolute number of non-literates.

Biotechnology in IITs

2152. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Biotechnology in all the IITs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it include graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes;

(c) if so, how funds are going to be pooled for this purpose;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce Biotechnology in other institutions, apart from IITs, such as IIIT, IIIM and RECs; and